tions for foreign collaboration involving foreign equity participation by companies from the Federal Republic of Germany which are pending consideration of Government. As a matter of policy, specific information relating to foreign collaboration proposals pending consideration of Government are not revealed in the public interest.

(c) and (d). Information relating to the approvals granted for foreign collaboration involving foreign equity participation by companies from the Federal Republic of Germany (including the erstwhile Germany Democratic Republic) during the last few years is given below:-

Year	*No. of approvals granted*	*Amount of foreign investment approved (Rs. in crores)*
1	*2*	*3*
1986	40	20.16
1987	40	10.35
1988	47	40.00
1989	38	120.33
1990	40	19.51
1991 (Jan-June)	10	22.61

Details of all approved foreign collaborations viz., the name of Indian & foreign firms, item of manufacture, nature of collaboration are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to its Monthly News Letter. Copies of this publication are sent regularly to Parliament Library.

Survey and Exploration of Polametallic Nodules

4896. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of the programme for survey and exploration of Polymetallic Nodules found in the deep seabed;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to intensify the Research and Development Programme in the extraction of Polymetallic Nodules; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Progress made in survey and exploration of Polymetallic Nodules in the Indian Pioneer Area includes completion of free fall sampling, spot photography at 12.5 km. grid spacing in the

major part of the area, special purpose spade coring and continuous bathymetric mapping of the sea floor in 50% of the Pioneer Area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Design and development of a deep seabed mining system which the help of various experts in the country with the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur as a lead agency, has been taken up. Three national laboratories viz. National Metallurgical Laboratory (Jamshedpur), Regional Research Laboratory (Bhubanewsar) and Hindustan Zinc Limited are engaged in development of processes for extraction of metals from nodules. Laboratory investigations on the development of metallurgical processes for extraction of metals from nodules are nearly complete. These processes are to be tested on a larger scale in pilot plants which are likely to be commissioned by early next year.

[*Translation*]

Exemption from Releasing Levy Sugar

4897. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have exempted the Regi Sugar Factory, Sitamari from releasing the levy sugar for public distribution;

(b) if so, the period for which this exemption has been given to the said factory and the reasons or giving such exemption:

(c) whether the crystal sugar of this factory is made available for the public distribution in Sitamari district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (h). Righa Sugar Factory is entitled to higher free sale quota ranging from 90% to 93% for 7 years from 1989-90 to 1995-96 as per the incentive scheme announced by the Government vide circular dated 26th December, 1988, as amended from time to time.

(c) to (e). After taking into account the aforesaid incentive, levy sugar is being released from Righa Sugar Factory as per its due entitlement. Accordingly, 1011.8 tonnes of levy sugar have been delivered by Food Corporation of India from Righa Sugar Factory to Sitamari District out of 1990-91 seasons's production for public distribution.

Allotment of Industrial plots in Trans-Yamuna Area, Delhi

4898. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial sheds at Loni Road in Trans-Yamuna area were allotted by the Government;

(b) if so, whether these industrial sheds are almost lying closed for want of supply of raw materials and other basic facilities from the Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken to remove these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). According to U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. Out of 32 industrial sheds constructed 29 sheds have been allotted by them in the Industrial Estate-Loni. Two sheds are under litigation and one shed is available for allotment. Out of these, 9 sheds are in production, and production in 6 sheds has been held up due